GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2683
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
COST OF PACKAGING
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing and other agro based industries have been facing a grave disadvantage vis-Ã -vis international competitors but for the high cost of packaging;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the share of packaging in the total cost of products;

(c) whether it compares favourably with the international standards and costs; and

(d) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): Packaging type, form, shape, quality etc., will vary for each product. Its cost will, therefore, vary from product to product and also with consumer requirements, logistics supply chain and other factors. The cost of packaging material and packaging technology may form a substantial component of the cost of packaged food. However, cost alone is not a criteria for competition. In fact, companies also use packaging as a value addition device at times.

(c) & (d): The country produces many types of packaging which is competitive as compared to international standards . The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is operating a plan scheme for establishing packaging centers with financial assistance to the implementing agencies. The Indian Institute of Packaging is also providing consultancy to the industry on maintenance of quality and optimization of costs.